

## **These are Discussion Notes from the “Understanding Language and Culture Through Literature” Session**

### ***What Are Some of the Different Kinds of Writing . . .***

- Government documents
- Legal documents
- Instructional material / directions
- Technical writing
- Business writing
- News / reports
- Literature
  - Fiction (e.g., novel, short stories)
  - Films (film scripts) / visual texts
  - Song lyrics

### ***And, What is “Literature”?***

- What a writer experiences or goes through during his/her life and then expresses.

### ***What are our interests? What do we like to study (in English)?***

- Watching films
- To be a “citizen of the world”
- To pursue cultural goals and think about cultural concerns
- To read works of literature
- To communicate
- To read and think about history / anthropology
- To read and think about philosophy (e.g., metaphysics, ethics)

***What Have We Learned by Examining English Language Poetry?***

- If we want to understand literature, we must understand figures of speech / the use of idiom
- The Bible is an essential text for an in depth understanding of Renaissance literature
- Language is often ambiguous, and words have many potential meanings
- It is very difficult to learn a language that is not your native language
- Cultural context is important to understanding subtlety and ambiguity